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The Family Test

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Summary

David Cameron announced the [introduction of the Family Test in a speech](#) in August 2014:

I said previously that I wanted to introduce a family test into government. Now that test is being formalised as part of the impact assessment for all domestic policies. Put simply that means every single domestic policy that government comes up with will be examined for its impact on the family.

In October 2014 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published [guidance on implementing the Family Test](#). The Test consists of five questions policy makers need to consider:

1. What kinds of impact might the policy have on family formation?
2. What kind of impact will the policy have on families going through key transitions such as becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, or the onset of a long-term health condition?
3. What impacts will the policy have on all family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities?
4. How does the policy impact families before, during and after couple separation?
5. How does the policy impact those families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown?

The application of the Family Test must be documented and the guidance asks Departments to consider publishing the outcomes but it is not a requirement. Very few Family Tests have been published to date.

MPs have asked numerous Parliamentary Questions about how the Test is being implemented, how many assessments have been carried out, and whether assessments will be published.

In March 2016 [Implementing the Family Test: A review of progress one year on](#) was published by The Family and Childcare Trust, Relate, and Relationship Foundation supported by 14 other charities. The organisations had written to 14 relevant Government Departments asking about the guidance they had issued on implementing the Family Test, and assessments they had carried out or published since its introduction in October 2014. The report contains the responses and questions the commitment of some Departments to implementing the Family Test.

There have been calls from some MPs, the Centre for Social Justice, and the Relationship Alliance, to make the Family Test a statutory requirement. This was the intention of Caroline Ansell's Private Member's Bill (PMB) which was introduced during the 2015-16 Parliamentary Session. The Government has resisted these calls, arguing that it would reduce the Test to a tick box exercise. Priti Patel, the Minister for Employment, set out the Government position during the [Second Reading debate on Caroline Ansell's PMB](#):

Placing the family test on a legislative footing, however, runs the risk of turning the test into a tick-box exercise across Government Departments, when our ambition is to work across government with Departments to embed the benefits of thinking about policy from a family perspective at all stages of policy development, not just complying with legislative requirements.

1. What is The Family Test?

1.1 Announcement of the Family Test

The then Prime Minister, David Cameron, referred to the possibility of introducing a Family Test following the riots of August 2011:

So if we want to have any hope of mending our broken society, family and parenting is where we've got to start.

I've been saying this for years, since before I was Prime Minister, since before I was leader of the Conservative Party.

So: from here on I want a family test applied to all domestic policy.

If it hurts families, if it undermines commitment, if it tramples over the values that keeps people together, or stops families from being together, then we shouldn't do it.

More than that, we've got to get out there and make a positive difference to the way families work, the way people bring up their children...

...and we've got to be less sensitive to the charge that this is about interfering or nannyng.

We are working on ways to help improve parenting - well now I want that work accelerated, expanded and implemented as quickly as possible.

This has got to be right at the top of our priority list.¹

It was not until August 2014 that a formal announcement of [the introduction of a 'family test'](#) was made:

[...]

The reality is that in the past the family just hasn't been central to the way government thinks. So you get a whole load of policy decisions which take no account of the family and sometimes make these things worse. Whether it's the benefits system incentivising couples to live apart or penalising those who go out to work - or whether it's excessive bureaucracy preventing loving couples from adopting children with no family at all.

We can't go on having government taking decisions like this which ignore the impact on the family.

I said previously that I wanted to introduce a family test into government. Now that test is being formalised as part of the impact assessment for all domestic policies. Put simply that means every single domestic policy that government comes up with will be examined for its impact on the family.²

[...]

The DWP was given responsibility for all relationship support policies, with "every government department to be held to account for the impact of their policies on the family".³

"Families are the best anti-poverty measure ever invented. They are a welfare, education and counselling system all wrapped up into one" *David Cameron, January 2016*

¹ [David Cameron, PM's speech on the fightback after the riots, 15 August 2011](#)

² [David Cameron on families, PM's speech to the Relationship Alliance, 18 August 2014](#)

³ Ibid.

1.2 Department of Work and Pensions Guidance

In October 2014 the DWP issued [Guidance for Government Departments](#) on implementing the Family Test:

The objective of the Test is to introduce an explicit family perspective to the policy making process, and ensure that potential impacts on family relationships and functioning are made explicit and recognised in the process of developing new policy.⁴

The guidance sets out when and how Government Departments should apply the Test.

While public policy by definition impacts the lives of individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, there will be policies, which do not have any impact at the level of the family per se, or where the impact is small and indirect, or temporary in nature. Where that is the case it may not be sensible or proportionate to apply the test. If policy makers are unsure, they should reflect on the questions and the rest of this guidance. In most cases it will be obvious where a policy is not in scope, but the indirect impacts of policy on families are not always obvious. If in doubt it is recommended that the questions are addressed and any further analysis that is needed is carried out.⁵

The Family test is in the form of five questions which policy makers should reflect on during policy formulation:

- What kinds of impact might the policy have on family formation?
- What kind of impact will the policy have on families going through key transitions such as becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities or the onset of a long-term health condition?
- What impacts will the policy have on all family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities?
- How does the policy impact families before, during and after couple separation?
- How does the policy impact those families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown?⁶

The guidance emphasises the need to consult widely when considering the Family Test questions:

While policy teams working on specific areas of family policy will have a good understanding of the impact of their policy on family relationships, expertise in this area largely sits outside of Government. Policy teams will need to engage with the evidence base and build their own understanding of how their Department's policies impact families. This will mean engaging with key stakeholders, using consultation processes to collect evidence, including family impacts in evaluation strategies and in some cases engaging directly with a diverse range of families, including children. The Open Policy Making approach encourages the use of a range of tools and techniques for engaging with

⁴ Department for Work and Pensions, [Family Test: Guidance for Government Departments](#), 31 October 2014

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

stakeholders in developing policy and these should be considered when building the evidence base on how particular policies impact families.⁷

The guidance states that Departments should document the assessments they carry out in an appropriate way as part of the policy making process:

Where a detailed assessment is carried out, departments should consider a standalone document to bring together their analysis. Departments should consider publishing assessments where they are carried out, and where policy is being submitted for collective agreement through the Cabinet Committee process, the assessment should be included alongside other policy documentation.⁸

1.3 Role of the Cabinet Committee on Social Justice

In June 2015 Iain Duncan Smith, the then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, announced that Cabinet Committee on Social Justice would take the lead in ensuring that the Family Test is properly applied across Government Departments when responding to a PQ:

Asked by: Mr David Burrowes

May I welcome the introduction of the family test and the Secretary of State's lead on that? What is he doing to ensure that it does what the Prime Minister says it should do, which is change the way Government do business?

Answered by: Mr Duncan Smith | Department for Work and Pensions

This test will be reviewed through the Social Justice Cabinet Committee, which I chair. We intend, and the Prime Minister intends, that it will have teeth. We want to see an improvement in family life and greater support for those who have to juggle care for their children, care for elderly relatives and work. Through that process we hope to improve their lives.⁹

1.4 Caroline Ansell's Private Member's Bill

The Family Test is not currently a statutory requirement. In June 2015 Caroline Ansell came 20th in the Private Members' Bill Ballot for the 2015-16 Session. She opted to introduce the [*Assessment of Government Policies \(Impact on Families\) Bill 2015-16*](#) the purpose of which is described below:

A Bill to require ministers to carry out an assessment of the impact of government policies on families by giving statutory effect to the family test; to place a duty on the Secretary of State to make a report on the costs and benefits of requiring local authorities to carry out equivalent tests on their policies; to require the Secretary of State to establish, and make an annual report on, indicators of

⁷ Ibid., p9

⁸ Ibid., p5

⁹ HC Deb 22 June 2012 c612

and targets for the government's performance in promoting family stability; and for connected purposes.¹⁰

The Bill was presented to Parliament on 24 June 2015. The debate on Second Reading began on Friday 4 December 2015. Caroline Ansell explained why she had introduced the Bill:

In that light, a whole host of questions have been put to Departments. They ask the Minister how many of his or her Department's policies have been assessed against the family test and what steps have been taken to publish the outcome of such an assessment. I regret to say that the answers to those questions have been rather limited. In many instances, the response was that the guidance urges only a consideration of publication, and therefore no publication had followed. There have been good examples of the assessment in relation to the Childcare Bill and the Education and Adoption Bill. However, the potential within the family test is as yet unrealised.¹¹

The Government opposed the Bill, Priti Patel, the Minister for Employment said:

Placing the family test on a legislative footing, however, runs the risk of turning the test into a tick-box exercise across Government Departments, when our ambition is to work across government with Departments to embed the benefits of thinking about policy from a family perspective at all stages of policy development, not just complying with legislative requirements.¹²

The debate was adjourned; the Bill did not progress and fell due to lack of parliamentary time.

¹⁰ [Assessment of Government Policies \(Impact on Families\) Bill \(HC Bill 26\)](#)

¹¹ [HC Deb 4 December 2015 c674](#)

¹² [HC Deb 4 December 2015 c677](#)

2. Application of the Family Test

2.1 Parliamentary Questions

A number of PQs have been asked about the application of the Family Test in respect of particular policies and how it is being applied in individual departments. A list of PQs that have asked about the Family Test is included in the appendix to this paper.

For instance, Caroline Ansell asked Departments about training they had provided on the Family Test. Tim Loughton has asked Departments about what guidance they had given to support the implementation of the Test. Nic Dakin has asked Departments what steps they have taken to embed the Family Test in policy making. Kate Green has asked Departments about the guidance they have provided on implementing Family Test, and the number of policies assessed against the Family Test.

Many of the responses describe briefly what the Family Test is and refer to the guidance issued by DWP but provide little additional information.

David Burrowes has asked several questions about the Family Test since its introduction; for example:

Asked by: Burrowes, Mr David

To ask the Leader of the House, pursuant to his oral contribution of 10 March 2016, Official Report, column 444, whether he expects primary and secondary legislation to be subject to the family test and the results published.

Answering member: Chris Grayling | Department: Leader of the House

A Family Test was introduced by the Government in 2014 – it aims to bring a family perspective into policy making. It will ensure that impacts on family relationships and functioning, both positive and negative, are recognised in the process of policy development and help inform the policy decisions, and any subsequent legislation, made by Ministers.

The Test is not a ‘tick box’ or ‘pass v fail’ exercise, it is about thinking carefully how new policy can support or potentially undermine family relationships. Policy is always about trade-offs but the Family Test ensures family considerations are explicitly considered and recognised when making those trade-offs.

While the guidance encourages publication, there is no requirement to do so.¹³

David Burrowes also wrote an article on the Family Test for Conservative Home in June 2015 [David Burrowes MP: Family policy – the litmus test for Cameron’s One Nation Government](#).

The Government has also referred to the Family Test in responses to some PQs, for instance:

Asked by: Bruce, Fiona

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Early Intervention Foundation review, What

¹³ PQ 33911, [on [Legislation Family Test](#)], 18 April 2016

works to enhance interparental relationships and improve children's outcomes, commissioned by his Department and published on 22 March 2016, what steps he is taking to strengthen the policymaker's role in promoting awareness of the effect of the quality of the relationship between parents on their children.

Answering member: Caroline Nokes | Department: Department for Work and Pensions

The report presented by the Early Intervention Foundation shows that children exposed to frequent, intense and poorly resolved conflict between their parents are at risk of poorer long term outcomes. Since publication policymakers have engaged with the Early Intervention Foundation through conferences and seminars to increase their understanding of the report's findings.

This evidence is being used to inform our approach to developing policy for future relationship support provision. Since autumn 2015 we have been working with 12 local authorities to develop evidence-based strategic delivery plans to embed relationship support into local services for families.

In addition we introduced the Family Test in October 2014, which means that for the first time new Government policies will be assessed for their impact on the family. This ensures that family stability is at the heart of government policy making.¹⁴

2.2 Implementing the Family Test: A review of progress one year on Report

In March 2016 the Family and Childcare Trust, Relate and the Relationship Foundation, supported by 14 other charities, published [Implementing the Family Test: A review of progress one year on](#). The report documented the responses of 14 Government Departments to requests for information on how they had incorporated and implemented the Family Test since its launch in October 2014.

Ten departments replied. The report states that five Departments (listed below) said that they had produced tailored guidance or tools to apply the Family Test:

- Department for Work and Pensions;
- Department for Education;
- HM Treasury;
- Department for Business Innovation and Skills; and
- Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Four departments (listed below), according to the report: "did not provide a meaningful response about how, or whether, the department is implementing the Family Test":¹⁵

- Home Office;
- Cabinet Office;

¹⁴ PQ 50589 [on [Families: Government Assistance](#)], 31 October 2016

¹⁵ [Implementing the Family Test: a review of progress one year on](#), 29 March 2016

- Department for Health; and
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The report concluded that: “the majority of departments have shown limited commitment to implementing the Family Test,”¹⁶ and raised concerns about the “variation” in departments’ responses to the Test.¹⁷ The report acknowledged that it is still early days, and may take some time for best practice to emerge, but expressed concern about the “absence of a transparent mechanism to record when the Test has been applied” because:

...this means that it is impossible to accurately assess how successfully the Test is being incorporated into the policy making process. There is little information available to the public about a process and little accountability for the Test. Whilst the Government rightly wishes to ensure that the Test does not become a ‘tick box’ exercise, this does not preclude recording and monitoring of its use.¹⁸

The report made the following recommendations:

Recommendations of *Implementing the Family Test A review of progress on year on*

- The Government should put the Family Test on a statutory footing.
- Departments should be required to publish a record of their Family Test assessments
- The Government should publish an annual review reporting on its performance.
- The Government should develop and publish tools and resources to support departments in applying the Family Test.
- The Government should examine the feasibility of a local Family Test.
- Devolved administrations should consider developing their own Family Tests.¹⁹

In April 2016 Baroness Lister asked the Government how it planned to respond to this report:

Asked by: Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to respond to the recommendations in *Implementing the Family Test, a review of progress one year on* by Relate, the Relationships Foundation and the Family and Childcare Trust.

Answered by: Baroness Altmann | Department: Department for Work and Pensions

DWP welcome the Family Test, a review of progress one year on by Relate, the Relationships Foundation and the Family and Childcare Trust. We will consider the findings of the report in the next phase of our Government wide strategy to improve the embedding and implementation of the family test.²⁰

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ [Implementing the Family Test: a review of progress one year on](#), 29 March 2016

²⁰ PQ HL7515, [on [Families](#)] 25 April 2016

2.3 The Centre for Social Justice, Where Next for the Family Test?

In March 2016 the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) published: [Where next for the Family Test?](#)

The report made recommendations based on the outcome of a roundtable event which heard from people “with a range of expertise in government”.²¹

The CSJ supports putting the Family Test on a statutory footing, but also believes that there are other ways in which implementation could be strengthened.²²

Centre for Social Justice, recommendations

- Better Evidence of what helps and what hurts families:
Consequently the CSJ recommends that government departments collect and publish:
 - Evidence of how greater family stability would advance their own agenda, encouraging external experts to submit evidence for consideration;
 - How their departmental policy is supporting families and family stability;
 - What further steps they are planning to take to support family stability.
- Strengthen the Family Test:
in the formation of policy, departments would be asked to:
 - Apply the Test where relevant against this evidence base;
 - Publish their assessment of the Test;
 - Explain why the Test has not been applied where this is the case.
- Cabinet Committee on Social Justice to oversee the process and publish on an annual basis:
 - The objectives and targets of Government in relation to promoting strong and stable families;
 - The Government’s proposals and policies for meeting these objectives;
 - The indicators that must be measured for the purposes of assessing the Government’s progress towards these objectives; and
 - The data on which the family stability indicators are based.

2.4 Published Family Test Assessments

The Family Test must be considered for all new domestic policy but Departments are not obliged to publish them. A few that have been published are detailed below.

²¹ [Centre for social justice, Where Next for the Family Test, March 2016](#)

²² Ibid

Department for Communities and Local Government [Lifetime tenancies: equalities impact assessment](#), May 2016

This Equalities Impact Assessment mentions the Family Test under the protected characteristic of age. It considers the proportion of tenants with children and concludes that over time the measure will to limit lifetime tenancies in the social rented sector will have a positive impact on families, particularly overcrowded families.

[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Higher Education and Research Bill Equality Analysis](#), May 2016

The following analysis of the Family Test implications of the Higher Education and Research Bill was provided in the Equalities Analysis:

Consideration of the Family Test

179. The Family Test was introduced on 31 October 2014. The objective of the test is to introduce an explicit family perspective to the policy making process, and ensure that potential impacts on family relationships and functioning are made explicit and recognised in the process of developing new policy.
180. Our assessment is that the policies covered in this Equality Analysis will not have a family impact beyond improved access to higher education and better employment prospects for graduates, which is positively associated with stable family formation.²³

The Green paper that preceded the bill had also included a consideration of the Family Test:

[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice](#), November 2015

This considered that the policies would not have an impact on the areas covered by the five questions of the Family Test but asked for views on this in consultation responses.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, [Devolving Sunday Trading Rules, Impact Assessment](#), March 2016²⁴

There were lots of requests from Members to publish the Family Test in relation to this legislation. The Department did publish it, but faced criticism on the basis that it was a little late in the day, as illustrated by the following PQ tabled by David Burrowes:

Asked by: David Burrowes

Following yesterday's deliberations on Sunday trading, may I congratulate the Government on the precedent they have set in the publication of the family test alongside new legislation, even

²³ Department for Business, Innovation and skills, [Higher Education and Research Bill - Equality Analysis, May 2016](#), p40

²⁴ DEP2016-0226

though it was published too late, coming as it did just a few hours before Report? It helpfully conceded the negative impact of the proposals on the family. Will the Leader of the House confirm that for all primary and secondary legislation, a family test will be published at the beginning, rather than at the end, of proceedings? In addition, will he inform us of what will happen if legislation does not pass the family test?

Answering member: Chris Grayling

The purpose of impact assessments and things such as the family test is to enable the House to take an informed decision. Such tests are less a bar over which a measure needs to jump than a package of measures on which the House can form its decisions. The Government's intention remains to keep the House as fully informed as possible so that it can take those decisions.²⁵

The Family Test was considered as part of the Impact assessment. The Assessment identifies three impacts on the family:

Positive

- Greater employment opportunities which may ease families' financial problems especially if paid a Sunday premium and more flexibility making working-time childcare easier.
- Shops being open longer gives families greater flexibility over when they do their shopping.

Negative

- Working on Sundays may interfere with family time, especially if other members of the family work Monday to Friday. Saturday, workers may feel pressurised to work Sundays. This could be mitigated by the right to opt-out of Sunday working.

[Department of Health, Family Test for the new contract for doctors and dentists in training in the NHS, March 2016.](#)

This ten page Department of Health report examines each of the five Family Test questions in some depth.

²⁵ HC Deb 10 March 2016 [on the [Family Test](#)] c443

3. Appendix: Parliamentary Questions and Debates on the Family Test

3.1 Parliamentary Questions

A few recent parliamentary questions are reproduced below others are listed in the next section.

Recent Parliamentary questions

[EU Nationals: Immigration](#)

Asked by: Mulholland, Greg

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Urgent Question of 4 July 2016, on EU Nationals: UK Residence, what assessment she has made of whether her Department's policy complies with the Government's family test.

Answering member: James Brokenshire Department: Home Office

The Government has been clear that there will be no immediate changes in the circumstances of European nationals and their family members entering or currently residing in the UK.

11 Jul 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 41902

[Junior Doctors: Conditions of Employment](#)

Asked by: Madders, Justin

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the outcome was of his Department's application of the Family Test to the decision to impose a new contract on junior doctors.

Answering member: Ben Gummer | Department: Department of Health

On the 11 February 2016 my Rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State made an oral statement, Official Report, columns 1763-1765 in which he announced that he would proceed with the introduction of a new national contract for doctors in training, following advice that there was no realistic prospect of reaching agreement with the British Medical Association.

The Secretary of State will carefully consider the draft final terms of such a contract in light of any applicable duties and the Family Test.

11 Mar 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 30293

[Sunday Trading: Families](#)

Asked by: Brennan, Kevin

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether his proposals for the extension of Sunday trading hours has passed the family test.

Answering member: Anna Soubry | Department: Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Government's Family Test is not a pass or fail measure.

The Government has conscientiously considered the impact on families and the evidence on this presented during the consultation. The Government will publish the Impact Assessment, including the Family Test, shortly.

03 Mar 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 28528

Other Parliamentary Questions

[New Junior Doctor Contract](#)

14 Apr 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Commons | 608 c498

[Sunday Trading: Family Test](#)

22 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 26577

[Engagements: Family Test - family security](#)

25 Nov 2015 | Prime Minister's questions - 1st Supplementary | House of Commons | 602 c1347

[Cabinet Office: Family Test monitoring](#)

26 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17142

[Benefit Sanctions and the Family Test](#)

02 Nov 2015 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | House of Commons | 601 c699

[Topical Questions: Cabinet Office - Implementing Family Test](#)

21 Oct 2015 | Oral answers to questions | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 600 c945

[Department for Education: Minutes of Family Test meeting](#)

28 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 211723

PQs tabled by: Tim Loughton - Guidance issued to Department officials to support implementation of the Family Test:

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Family Test guidance](#)

09 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 25589

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Family Test guidance](#)

08 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 25588

[Cabinet Office: Family Test guidance](#)

08 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 25587

[Department for Work and Pensions: Family Test guidance](#)

02 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 24858

[Home Office: Family Test guidance](#)

02 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 24857

[Department of Health: Family Test Guidance](#)

02 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 24856

PQs tabled by: Nic Dakin- Steps Department has taken to embed the Family Test into its policy making.

[Government Equalities Office: Family Test - policy making](#)

26 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16801

[Department for Work and Pensions: Family Test - policy making](#)

26 Nov 2015 | Written | House of Commons | 16800

[Department for Transport: Family Test - policy making](#)

25 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16802

[Leader of the House of Commons: Family Test - policy making](#)

23 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16839

[Ministry of Justice: Family Test - policy making](#)

23 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16838

[Northern Ireland Office: Family Test - policy making](#)

23 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16837

[Department for International Development: Family Test - policy making](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16712

[Treasury: Family Test - policy making](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16711

[Home Office: Family Test - policy making](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16710

[Department of Health: Family Test - policy making](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16698

[Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Families](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | | House of Commons | 16681

[Communities and Local Government: Family Test - policy making](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15374

[Cabinet Office: Family test - policy making](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15373

[Attorney General: Family Test - policy making](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15371

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Family Test - policy making](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15370

[Ministry of Defence: Family Test - policy making](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15350

[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Family Test - policy making](#)

17 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15372

PQs tabled by: Caroline Ansell - training the Department has provided to staff on the family test and what other steps have been taken to raise awareness of the Family Test among staff of the Department?

[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Family Test, training and awareness](#)

20 Apr 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17920

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Family Test - training and awareness](#)

17 Dec 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17922

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Family Test - training and awareness](#)

04 Dec 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17926

[Ministry of Justice: Family Test - training and awareness](#)

03 Dec 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17928

[Department for Education: Family Test - training and awareness](#)

03 Dec 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17924

[Attorney General: Family Test - training and awareness](#)

03 Dec 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17921

[Department of Energy and Climate Change: Family Test - training and awareness](#)

02 Dec 2015 | Written questions | | House of Commons | 17925

[Ministry of Defence: Family Test - Training and Awareness](#)

01 Dec 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17923

[Home Office: Family Test - Training and awareness](#)

30 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 17927

PQs tabled by: Caroline Ansell - what steps are being taken to ensure the routine use by the Department of the Family Test?

[Communities and Local Government: Family Test routine use](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15396

[Department for Transport: Family Test routine use](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15398

[Department for Education: Family Test routine use](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15397

PQs tabled by: Caroline Ansell - What steps is the Department taking to implement the Family Test?

[Treasury: Implementing the Family Test](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15403

[Department for International Development: Implementing the Family Test](#)

18 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15846

[Home Office: Family Test Implementing the Family Test](#)

18 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15845

[Department of Health: Implementing the Family Test](#)

17 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15848

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15847

[Attorney General: Implementing The Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15400

PQs tabled by: Caroline Ansell - What assessment has been made of the effect of the family test on the Department's policies?

[Ministry of Justice: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15402

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

17 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15404

[Department for Work and Pensions: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15348

PQs tabled by: Kate Green - what steps Department is taking to implement the family test:

[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Implementing the Family Test](#)

23 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15337

[Department for Transport: Implementing the Family Test](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16018

[Northern Ireland Office: Implementing the Family Test](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16016

[Department for Work and Pensions: Implementing the Family Test](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16020

[Scotland Office: Implementing the Family Test](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16017

[Ministry of Justice: Implementing the Family Test](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16015

[Department for Work and Pensions: Implementing the Family Test throughout government](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15994

[Wales Office: Implementing the Family Test](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16019

[Department for International Development: Implementing the Family Test](#)

18 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16014

[Home Office: Implementing the Family Test](#)

18 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16013

[Department of Health: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15346

[Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15345

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15344

[Department of Energy and Climate Change: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15343

[Department for Education: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15342

[Ministry of Defence: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15341

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15340

[Communities and Local Government: Implementing the Family Test](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15339

[Cabinet Office: Implementing the Family Test](#)

13 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15338

PQs tabled by: Kate Green - How many of the Department's policies have been assessed against the Family test and what steps have been taken to publish the outcome of such assessments that have been carried out?

[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

23 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15327

[Wales Office: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16027

[Department for Transport: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | | House of Commons | 16026

[Northern Ireland Office: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

20 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16024

[Department for Work and Pensions: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16028

[Scotland Office: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16025

[Ministry of Justice: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

19 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16023

[Department for International Development: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

18 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16022

[Home Office: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

18 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 16021

[Department of Health: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15336

[Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15335

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15334

[Department of Energy and Climate Change: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15333

[Department for Education: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15332

[Ministry of Defence: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15331

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15330

[Communities and Local Government: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

16 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15329

[Cabinet Office: Family Test Policy Assessment](#)

13 Nov 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 15328

PQs Tabled by: David Burrowes:

[Legislation: Families](#)

18 Apr 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 33911

[Finance \(No. 2\) Bill: Families](#)

18 Apr 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 33786

[Business of the House: Sunday Trading Family Test](#)

10 Mar 2016 | Business questions | House of Commons | 607 c443

[Sunday Trading](#)

22 Feb 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 27189

[Immigration Bill: Families](#)

21 Oct 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 12169

[Drugs: Misuse](#)

21 Oct 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 12131

[Local Government: Devolution](#)

20 Oct 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 12168

[Sunday Trading](#)

20 Oct 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 12101

[Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 \(Temporary Class Drug\) \(No. 2\) Order 2015: Family Test](#)

12 Oct 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 10467

[Sunday Trading](#)

22 Sep 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 10161

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

23 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1191

[Department of Work and Pensions: Family Test -changing the way Government does business](#)

22 Jun 2015 | Topical questions - Supplementary | House of Commons | 597 c612

[Communities and Local Government: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

15 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1190

[Department for Transport: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

12 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1202

[Ministry of Justice: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

11 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1200

[Department for International Development: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

11 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1199

[Department of Health: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

11 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1197

[Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

11 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1196

[Department for Work and Pensions: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

10 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1204

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

10 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1195

[Department of Energy and Climate Change: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

10 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1194

[Department for Education: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

10 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1193

[Attorney General: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

10 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1188

[Home Office: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

09 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1198

[Treasury: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

09 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1203

[Cabinet Office: Family Test -Assessing the impact of policies](#)

08 Jun 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 1189

[Business of the House: Family Test](#)

04 Jun 2015 | Proceeding contributions | House of Commons | 596 c779

[Department of Health: Methadone and the Family Test](#)

08 Jan 2015 | Written questions | House of Commons | 219139

PQs tabled by: Lucy Powell – Family Test; which policies of the Department have been so assessed to date?

[Department of Communities and Local Government: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

22 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208846

[Wales Office: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

15 Oct 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 208863

[Scotland Office: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

15 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208860

[Department of Health: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

15 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208854

[Ministry of Defence: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

15 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208848

[Cabinet Office: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

15 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208845

[Northern Ireland Office: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

14 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208859

[Ministry of Justice: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

14 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208857

[Department for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

14 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208851

[Department for Work and Pensions: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208864

[Treasury: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208862

[Department for Transport: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208861

[Department for International Development: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208856

[Women and Equalities: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208853

[Department for Energy and Climate Change: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208850

[Department for Education: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208849

[Department for Culture Media and Sport: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 208847

[Attorney General: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

13 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208844

[Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Family Test- Policies assessed to date](#)

10 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208852

[Department for Business, innovation and Skills: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

01 Oct 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208843

[Home Office: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

24 Sep 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208855

[Leader of the House: Family Test - Policies assessed to date](#)

23 Sep 2014 | Written questions | House of Commons | 208858

Lords Questions

[Family Test - policy failure](#)

25 Apr 2016 | Written questions | House of Lords | HL7516

[Family Test: Implementing the Family Test a review](#)

25 Apr 2016 | Written questions | House of Lords | HL7515

[Family Test monitoring](#)

25 Apr 2016 | Written questions | House of Lords | HL7514

[Family Test: Impact on policy making](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral questions - Lead | | House of Lords | 768 cc1145-7

[Family Test: Impact on fostering](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral questions - Supplementary | House of Lords | 768 c1147

[Family Test: Welfare Reform and Work Bill](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral questions - Supplementary | House of Lords | 768 c1147

[Family Test: Benefits and tax credits](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | 768 c1147

[Family Test: Independent evaluation](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | 768 c1146

[Family Test: Life chances strategy](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | 768 c1146

[Family Test: Publication Welfare and Reform Bill Assessment](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | 768 c1146

[Family Test: Impact on policy making](#)

26 Jan 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | 768 c1145

[Social Security Benefits: Children - Family Test Publication](#)

22 Dec 2015 | Written questions | HL4347

[Family Test: Tax credits](#)

22 Jun 2015 | Oral questions - Supplementary | House of Lords | 762 c1361

[Family Test: Co-ordination across Government Departments](#)

22 Jun 2015 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | House of Lords | 762 c1360

3.2 Parliamentary debates

The Family Test has been raised in the following debates:

[Benefit Cap \(Housing Benefit and Universal Credit\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](#)

HL Debate 08 Nov 2016 | 776 cc1121-1139

[Social Mobility](#)

HL Debate 27 October 2016 | 776 cc377-406

[Enterprise Bill \[Lords\]](#)

HL Deb 9 March 2016 | 607 cc315-387

[Immigration Bill](#)

HL Deb 3 Feb 2016 | 768 cc1793-1910

[Welfare Reform and Work Bill](#)

HL Debate 27 January 2016 | 768 cc1283-1345

[Welfare Reform and Work Bill](#)

HL Deb 17 Nov 2015 | 767 cc28-128

[Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill \[Lords\]](#)

HC Deb 17 Nov 2015 | 602 cc554-643

[Welfare Reform and Work Bill](#)

HC Deb 27 Oct 2015 | 601 cc207-312

[Tax Credits](#)

HC Deb 20 Oct 2015 | 600 cc845-923

[Health: Children and Young People](#)

HL Deb 7 Jul 2015 | 764 cc156-172

[Childcare Bill \[HL\]](#)

HL Deb 1 Jul 2015 | 762 cc2074-2126

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